



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

435 RYMAN MISSOULA, MONTANA 59802-4297

EXHIBIT 8 BOH
DATE 1/15/09
HB 114

January 13, 2009

Honorable Representative Bill Wilson, Chair
And Members of the House Business and Labor Committee
PO Box 200400
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Sent via email and FAX to (406) 444-4825

Chairman Wilson and Honorable Members of the Business and Labor Committee:

The City of Missoula is expressing support for HB 114 "Clarify licensure and liability in public health emergencies."

Like communities across the nation, Missoula has been working closely with our local hospitals to be prepared for a public health emergency. One of the most important issues we must address is the slim capacity our excellent local hospitals have to address a sudden or prolonged surge in demand for hospital care. This issue is even more critical considering that Missoula's health care institutions serve a large and highly-populated region of Montana.

Representative Henry's bill provides for the utilization of volunteer out-of-state licensed health care workers to swiftly, yet safely, brings critical resources to Montana during a governor-declared emergency. We urge your support of HB 114 and thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Mayor John Engen

cc: Missoula Delegation
Alec Hanson, Montana League of Cities and Towns
Gallatin Public Affairs
Ellen Leahy, Missoula City-County Health Department Director



BCC 2009-005
January 13, 20008

PHONE: (406) 258-4877
FAX: (406) 721-4043

EXHIBIT 7 BUH
DATE 1/15/09
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Honorable Representative Bill Wilson, Chair
Business and Labor Committee
Montana House of Representatives
Helena, MT 59620

RE: Support HB 114 "Clarify licensure and liability in public health emergencies"

Dear Representative Wilson:

Representative Henry's bill would allow licensed out-of-state volunteer professionals to assist Montana during a governor-declared emergency. Montana is one of eight states that does not have a such a provision for licensed health care workers. Missoula County is home to two excellent regional medical centers; yet our emergency preparedness work with these institutions has made us acutely aware that the capacity to meet a rapid or extended demand for hospital services is narrow. HB 114 addresses this gap.


HB 114 also provides for other licensed volunteers to assist in the event of other emergency scenarios. For example, an earthquake or flood might result in a temporary need for more qualified engineers to assist.

Finally, the bill provides clear and strict provisions for assuring licensure, sanctions, and other means of overseeing the quality of work of these licensed volunteers. We urge your support of HB 114.

Sincerely,
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Bill Carey, Chair

NOT AVAILABLE FOR SIGNATURE
Jean Curtiss, Commissioner


Michele Landquist, Commissioner

BCC/ppr
cc: Ellen Leahy, Health Department
Bob Reid, Emergency Services